

They work together because the FDA wants to get it right and these companies want to get it right.

We saw one of them just a few days ago. They had a pause, which is the protocol. That is the safety protocol because there was a question in the testing, and they addressed it. I am sure there were many. I don't know directly, but I am sure there were many conversations with the FDA.

But then they started up again, which means there wasn't a problem. But it meant they followed the protocols, which say, if you see something that you need to go review, you hold off, and then you go check that out. That is what one of these did, and now they are back on track.

The others continue to go through, all of them, working with the FDA. That is really what this is about. It is about a partnership because the FDA has to sign off.

I am sure the gentleman would agree. You want to make sure you have multiple people looking at it. You don't just want the company that is making the drug looking at it. You want the regulator looking at it as well because, ultimately, they have to sign off on it.

They are not doing it blindly. No one suggests that. But they are doing it with a much sharper focus. It is the top priority, I think we would all agree. This needs to be the priority to get our country back on track, and it has to be done right. But it is not going to get signed off if it is not right. So, it is a partnership, and it is working incredibly well.

Again, this new partnership ought to be the model in the future. It shouldn't be the exception just because of COVID. It is working incredibly well.

We worked together to pass the 21st Century Cures Act, which ultimately will find a cure for cancer, for Alzheimer's, for ALS, for other diseases. It is because we put a sharper focus over at the National Institutes of Health, and we put additional resources over at the National Institutes of Health.

That priority, what we are learning from this, ought to be replicated to help find a cure for some of those other diseases so that maybe we can find even more cures for people who are living today, not just for somebody 30 years from now, but for somebody struggling today with one of those terrible diseases.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have nothing left to say.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I know we will continue this conversation. Hopefully, the bill gets filed tomorrow, and we can resolve more of these issues next week. I look forward to seeing the gentleman and working with him on all of these.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING COMMISSIONER BILLIE DEAN

(Mrs. DEMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Commissioner Billie Dean from the city of Apopka.

Mr. Dean was a guiding light for Apopka.

From bravery in Korea, to the classrooms and commission, to the forefront of racial integration in the South, Commissioner Dean was a champion for his community.

He was a local hero for his work to revitalize South Apopka and to fight for justice. As a teacher and a commissioner, he made the future of Apopka his ultimate cause.

There is no higher praise for a public servant than the love of his community. Apopka loved him, and he loved Apopka.

Madam Speaker, we are grateful for a life well lived.

AMERICANS ARE WAITING

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, why were we brought back to Washington, D.C., this week?

Was it to provide much-needed relief and assistance to American families and small businesses because of the pandemic? No.

Instead, we continue to spend time on another set of mostly partisan messaging bills with little or no input from Republicans. My Democratic colleagues rely on grandstanding and talk more about the bills they have passed than the bills, Madam Speaker, they have actually gotten signed into law.

It is time for Democrats to get serious and stop trying to score political points and come back to the negotiating table. Let's serve the American people by actually getting much-needed bipartisan legislation signed into law to fight this virus and get our economy back.

We have already proven how much good we can accomplish for American families and the American people when we work together.

RECOGNIZING HOPE LEE ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Hope Lee, a revered constituent of New York's 14th Congressional District who is celebrating his 100th birthday this year and has served so valiantly for our country.

During World War II, Mr. Lee received a Bronze Star Medal, two Purple

Hearts, and a Combat Infantry Badge for his service to the country during World War II.

Mr. Lee, in fact, was supposed to go to Washington, D.C., this year to get his Congressional Gold Medal of Honor this May, but it was postponed due to the pandemic.

I think it is incredibly important to honor his work and his service here on the House floor.

He is extraordinarily proud of his service in the U.S. military and hangs his American flag outside his house for every U.S. holiday.

In fact, he and his wife, Rose Lee, have been happily married for 76 years, and Mr. Lee still does the cooking for himself and his wife.

Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Hope Lee.

Thank you for your service, and happy birthday, Mr. Lee.

□ 1530

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. WALTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, as a combat veteran, I think a lot about my past experiences in battle and personally have dealt with my own struggles, from PTS to survivor's guilt.

But this year, we are in a collective battle, and the front lines look very different. We are fighting against an invisible enemy, against COVID-19, and we are forced to distance ourselves and to change our entire way of life. This isolation is causing anxiety, depression, and sometimes takes us to even darker places, even with suicidal thoughts.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and I am teaming with a veterans group, Mission Roll Call, to raise awareness about suicide prevention, especially the 22 veterans per day we are currently losing.

In combat, we are constantly checking on our brothers and sisters to our left and our right, and we have to do the same back here at home. So I say to all veterans out there: Reach out. Ask your buddy how they are doing. Share a memory. Let them know that you are thinking about them and you have their back.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we can win this fight.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, recovery is challenging and isolating even during normal days, and this pandemic has only made it more difficult for those who suffer from addiction and substance use disorder. That is why National Recovery Month, this month,

takes on even greater meaning as many are navigating isolation and distance from family and support networks.

National Recovery Month is personal for me and my family. My son, Harry, is in long-term recovery from opioid addiction. Now he is healthy, he is well, and he works now to help others who struggle with substance abuse disorder.

In his work, he reminds me that, during the pandemic, so many have it even tougher on the road to recovery. He reminds me that not all are as fortunate as we have been, and we recognize National Recovery Month for its importantly shining a light on this issue.

I call on us to dedicate more resources to support those suffering with addiction and substance use disorder to live happy, rewarding, healthy lives.

And for those suffering with substance use disorders: You are not alone. There is hope.

STAND UP FOR POLICE

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Madam Speaker, no matter your political affiliations in 2001, there were no greater heroes than our first responders who risked their own lives to save their fellow citizens on 9/11. Republicans and Democrats thanked our first responders, while children across our Nation looked up to them as examples of what it meant to be heroes, to risk their own well-being in service to their fellow citizens.

Now, across the Nation, we see a stark contrast to that scene from almost 20 years ago. Radicals now seek to defund the police. They threaten the men and women who risk their lives in service to our community, and, at times, they target our officers with violence, which, in the most tragic of cases, means these officers who are also fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters never return home to their family.

I am calling on Members of Congress who have remained silent in recent months to now publicly oppose the violence against our law enforcement community so that we can put an end to the basic attacks against our first responders.

NATIONAL SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Suicide Prevention Month.

Every year, close to 800,000 people die by suicide, leaving their family and friends to navigate the tragedy of loss. This is one death every 40 seconds.

Studies by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that sui-

cide rates are rising, and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S. for all ages.

This important month is a time to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this stigmatized topic. It is beneficial to learn and pay attention to the warning signs of suicide and periodically check in with friends and family members, especially during these challenging times.

Additionally, talking about suicide in an open and caring way can help those who are having suicidal thoughts. As the isolating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to grip our world, it is imperative we take our physical and mental health seriously.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves about suicide and the patient-centered resources available so we can help protect those in our communities, friends, and loved ones.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), my good friend, great patriot, and veteran.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, as folks in the Chamber know, I have been taking some time to thank friends, family, and staff, for supporting me these 24 years as a Member of the House.

Today, before I go down the organizational chart and mention caseworkers, legislative assistants, legislative correspondents, staff assistants, schedulers, there are some outliers in my organization that I need to mention.

Mary Ellen, Mary Ellen Maxwell, and Maria Maxwell are all the same person. The Madonia family has strong roots in Springfield, Illinois, and in the Illinois Republican Party.

Mary Ellen was on the campaign staff with me in 1996. Upon our victory, she joined the congressional staff. She eventually moved away and then got married.

On returning to Illinois with Brad, she joined Team Shimkus as my campaign treasurer. Her family also grew, adding Zane and Lilly.

We continue to joke about how Governor Edgar pointed to her at an event one time and said: "Oh, you are the one who is going to go jail." Well, not only has she not gone to jail, she is a stickler for the law, keeping us both out of trouble.

Dora Rohan has spent 29 years working with me, protecting me, and being my friend. She started out as my executive assistant when I became treasurer of Madison County. As the only countywide elected Republican, I needed a confidential employee whom I could trust. Dora fit the bill and also

brought with her amazing secretarial skills, including shorthand.

Dora followed me to my congressional office and became a caseworker for the remainder of her professional career. Oh, the stories she could tell, and someday, I hope she will.

I also appreciated the times when we did travel together. These trips provided me a different perspective and insight to the goings on in my office, much to the chagrin of some of my other employees.

I have had two great legislative assistants who informally became part of my senior staff. Chris Sarley and Jordan Haverly rose to prominence on their ability to handle policy, negotiations, and the politics that arise from public policy.

They both were what we called shared staff. Because of my role as either chairman or ranking member of the Environment and Economy Subcommittee, they were my primary point person with the full committee. They also played key roles in negotiations with staff members of other offices, from Republican offices and Democrat offices.

Chris Sarley and I had a lot of legislative successes, and I could spend all my time on that. Another Illinois boy, but a Chicagolander, I was skeptical at first until I found out that he was a Sox fan, not a fan of that other team.

Chris' claim to fame is our success shepherding the Toxic Substance Control Act, commonly known as TSCA, through the legislative process and having it signed by President Obama. That piece of legislation took 5½ years.

This was the first rewrite of a major environmental law since it was passed in 1976. Praised by the chemical manufacturers and the environmental community, it is a perfect example of threading the needle to reform and update an old law.

Thank you, Chris.

Jordan is from Pennsylvania and is also in his second tour of duty with my office. He handles my subcommittee now. With Democrats in charge, we attempt to prevent overreach which is not scientifically supported and would hurt jobs in the economy. Many times doing nothing is better than doing something poorly.

Jordan has a gift for working with social media. He also has a great handle on who I am and how I would like to respond to most issues. He never lets me down.

Jordan, like my legislative director, seems to want to go down with the ship. That is loyalty, which I appreciate. He will be a great pick-up for any office.

Madam Speaker, as I have said numerous times, one is only as good as the people they have around them. These are some of the best, and I thank them.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. SHIMKUS for the wonderful tribute being paid. We will have to stand up here at some point and pay a wonderful tribute to Mr. SHIMKUS.